OSWALD AT KEESLER; A Non-existant Document Surfaces

by

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Following his seperation from the 3386 Student Squadron at Keesler AFB in June 1957, Qswald took fifteen days leave before reporting to his next assignment which was the 4th Replacement Battalion, MCAS El Toro, California. That atleast is the official story as revealed in his service records contained in the exhibits of the Warren Commission Report(1). What is not published as a part of those exhibits and was officially non-existant untill I obtained it, is a document which indicates that Oswald may have been assigned elsewhere.

Initially, Keesler Technical Training Center had taken the position that they had no records for an individual named Lee Harvey Oswald and futhermore, had there been any such records, they would have been routinely destroyed ten years after the student had graduated from a given course(2). Such action was in keeping with Air Force regulations. Needless to say, I found it hard to believe that such records would have been " routinely " destroyed and also that the name Oswald didn't seem to ring any bells with anyone.

I took the liberty of sending a letter inwhich I explained who Mr. Oswald was and suggested that they dig a little deeper. That letter must have contained the right stuff for several weeks later an envelope arrived inwhich I found a one page copy of a formerly non-existant document and a very brief note saying that the enclosed was what I had requested. The document is an Air Force TTAF Form 20, which I was told was a copy of Oswalds train-

ing record. It is published here for the first time.

What is of particular interest about the document is the information contained in block 5 where it is stated that Oswald was attached to I&I 1st ArmAmphCo. USMCR, Broad Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi! Why I wondered, would Oswald who had signed up for three years of active duty, have been assigned to a Marine reserve outfit after tech school? And, if the real Oswald was stationed in Mississippi, who was it that went to California to play the role of the misfit leftist?

A former marine at work told me that I&I ment Inspector and Instructor and that such a unit was responsible for providing additional training to new incomming personnel which were assigned to a military organization. However he said, he couldn't see a PFC as being an instructor since they almost always are NCOs or above in rank. His only explanation was that Oswald was a " gofer ", a sort of errand boy but considering the training which Oswald had just received, I considered such duty unlikely. So, what is the answer?

Futher inquiries of the Commandant of the Marine Corps who had custody of Oswalds records according to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, brought no reply. Could it be that someone inadvertently let this formerly non-existant document slip through a crack in the floor (shades of Fawn and Olie)? One can only wonder how much they have knowingly destroyed or " revised " or are holding back.

Footnotes

1. Donabedian Ex. 1 (19E581-617), Folsom Ex. 1 (19E656-768) and Commission Exhibit 3099 (26E709-726).

2. Ltr dtd 25 Jul 77 from Keesler TTC(ATC) to author.